

Lop Buri

*Historical Sites
Walking Route in
Lop Buri Province*

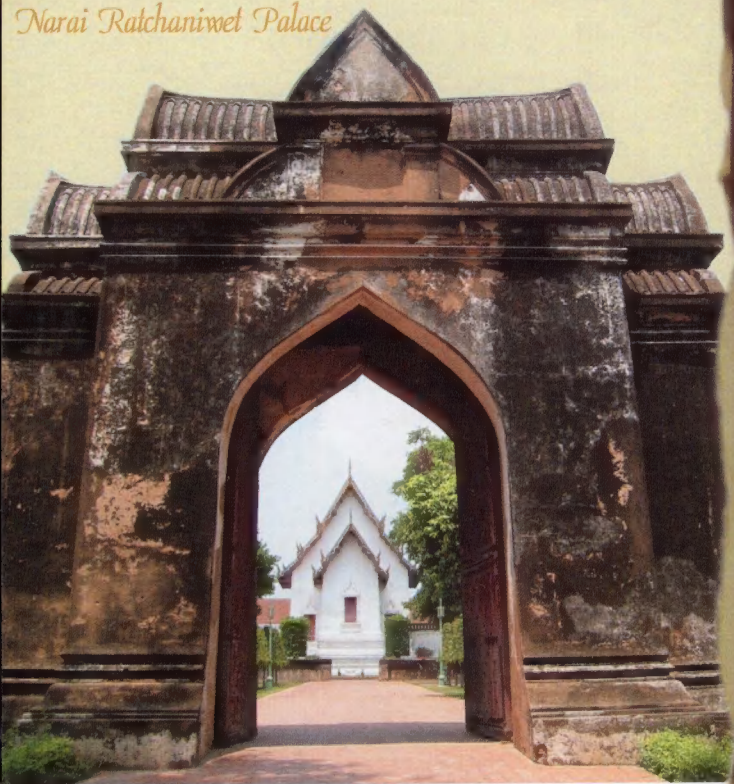


Tourism Authority of Thailand Central Region Office : Region 7
Tel: 0-3642-2768-9 Fax: 0-3642-4089
Rop Wat Phrathat Road, Amphoe Muang, Lop Buri 15000. Thailand.
www.tat7.com e-mail: tatlobri@tat.or.th



ศูนย์บริการ
นักท่องเที่ยว
ในลพบุรี
Blessing
Central

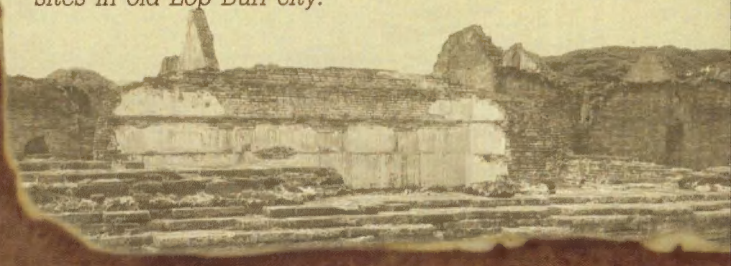
Narai Ratchaniwet Palace



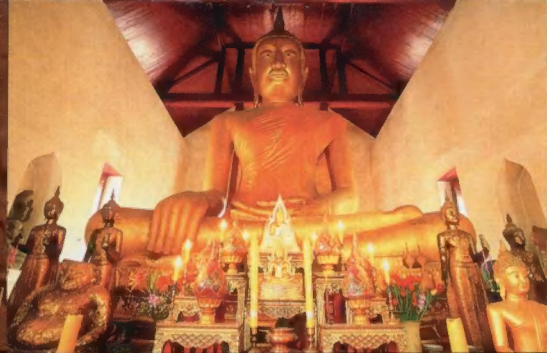
Vichayen House



Lop Buri is a land of variety, with a culture that has continued unbroken for over 3,000 years from prehistoric times till present. Originally called "Lawa Pura" or "Lawo," the city attained great prosperity in the Thawarawadi period (12th-16th Buddhist centuries) when it received cultural influence from the Khmer Empire. In early 19th Buddhist century during the reign of King Uthong, the first king of the Ayutthaya Empire, he assigned his son Phra Ramesuan to rule Lop Buri in 1350. King Narai the Great (1656-1688) commissioned the construction of a palace here, becoming a secondary capital to Ayutthaya. Lop Buri emerged to be a center of administration and trade, and established diplomatic relations with the civilized world. As a result, the city enjoyed unprecedented growth in language, literature, astronomy, and architecture. This is evident from traces of art from different periods in historical sites in old Lop Buri city.

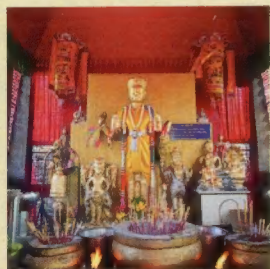
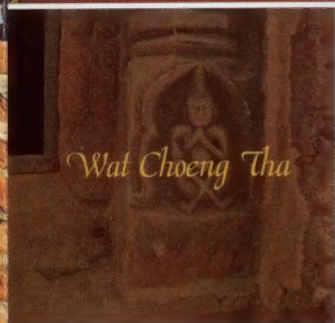
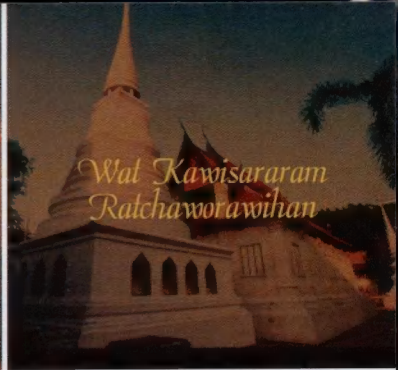


Wat Sao Thong Thong



Wat Phra Si Rattana Maha That





Phra Kan Shrine

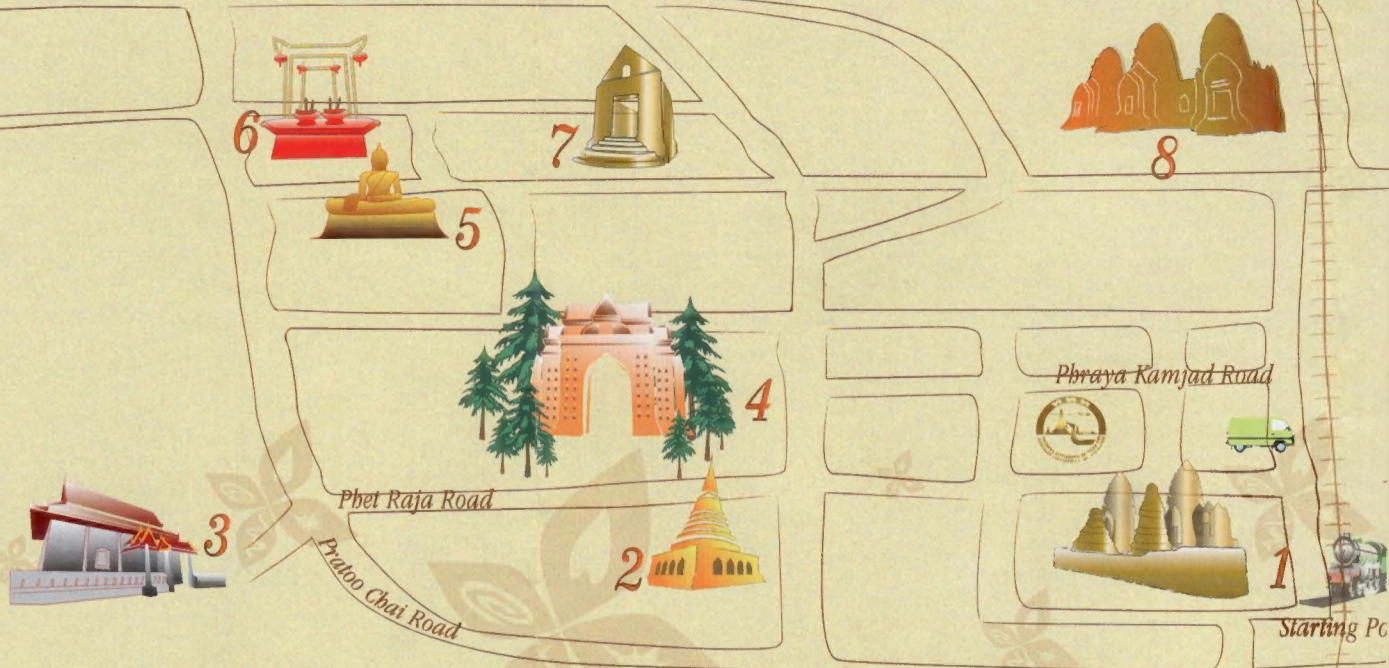


Luk Son Shrine

Lop Buri

Historical Sites Walking Route in Lop Buri

Go to Sing Buri Province



1 Wat Phra Si Rattana Maha That

was built around the 18th-19th Buddhist century in the Lop Buri period according to the tradition to build a temple to house the holy relics of Lord Buddha in the middle of a major city. The temple has been renovated over the years by a number of kings. The most important site here is **Phra Prang** in its center. It has an extended visage and is decorated with bas relief of Buddha images and the life of Lord Buddha on the gable, as well as designs of human faces and flora. A crooked balcony encircles two levels of the structure. It is believed to be the first Thai-style tall stupa. In front of the main tall stupa is the Wihan Luang (Wihan Kao Hong), or main chapel. Sala Phuang Khruang is where kings changed attire before performing religious ceremonies.



2 Wat Kawisararam Ratchaworawihan

was formerly called Wat Khwit. His Majesty King Rama IV renovated this temple and changed its name to Wat Korawitsayaram. The temple later became known as Wat Kawisararam. Of note is the consecrated assembly hall with art of the late Ayutthaya period. The building has small windows in the shape of Sapindaceae fruits to allow light and ventilation. The hall houses a main Buddha image made of sandstone covered with plaster and gold inlaid. The style is that of an image from the Uthong period. There are very beautiful murals on the walls and columns. The wooden door panes have a design of Narai on a garuda. In the time of King Rama IV, the hall was used as a place for government officials to pledge allegiance to the king.



3 Wat Choeng Tha

was originally called Wat Tha Kwian. The historical sites built during the late Ayutthaya to the Rattanakosin periods are the consecrated assembly hall, the main pagoda, the two-storey Chinese-style monk's residence, the triple-gable pavilion, Wothan Thammasapha building, the bell tower, and the sermons hall. Ho Sophon Sin Museum was built in 1997 and is a learning center for Buddhism. It also has on display rare art objects in 4 main categories; History of Wat Choeng Tha, History of Buddhist monks, History of Dharma and History of Lord Buddha.



5 Wat Sao Thong Thong

was built in the Ayutthaya period. A map made by the French indicated that the temple was the residence of Persians. The temple has a mosque that was used in Islamic religious services. It is believed that Wat Sao Thong Thong is the present site of the royal chapel. At the back are the Bijoux Building and Khotchasan (Khorasan) Building, which were houses for royal guests and foreign envoys. The royal chapel houses a Buddha image in the Man Wichai posture (Luang Pho To), with the art style of the Ayutthaya period. The walls are marked with oval holes. The temple has some ancient Buddha images that have great artistic value.



4 Phra Narai Ratchaniwet Palace and Somdet Phra Narai National Museum

King Narai the Great, the 27th king of Ayutthaya, commissioned some French and Italian engineers to design Lop Buri Palace in 1666 for his residence, office, envoy reception, and hunting. The king preferred to stay in Lop Buri up to 8-9 months at a time. In the reign of King Rama IV, His Majesty had the palace renovated and built a new throne hall, and renamed it "Phra Narai Ratchaniwet." In 1961, the site was established as Somdet Phra Narai National Museum. The museum has exhibits on history, artifacts and art objects found in Lop Buri and other places from the periods of Thawarawadi, Si Wichai, Lop Buri, Chiang Saen, Sukhothai, Uthong, Ayutthaya, and Rattanakosin, as well as special exhibitions. The palace is divided into 3 zones; the Outer Palace includes a reservoir, a treasury, a guest reception hall, Phra Chao Hao building, and a royal elephant hall, the Middle Palace consists of Chantharaphisan Throne Hall, Dusit Sawan Thanya Maha Prasat Throne Hall, the Phiman Mongkut Throne Hall group, and Thim Dap, and the Inner Palace where Suttha Sawan Throne Hall and Phra Prathiap Building are located.



6 City Pillar Shrine (San Lak Muang) or San Luk Son

was mentioned by Prince Damrong Rachanuphap in the Lop Buri Chronicles that "...the Lop Buri City Pillar is near the market to the north of the palace. It is called Son Phra Ram. It is not clear if it existed in pre-Khmer times or during them. It is called Son Phra Ram due to the epic Ramayana as the foundation legend of this city. That is, upon completing his battle with Thotsakan, Rama went back to rule Ayothaya and wished to build a city over there, so he shot an arrow which landed on a mountain and leveled it. Hanuman went to it and used his tail to create earth walls to mark where the city would be founded. Vishnu the god came down to construct the city. When finished, Rama gave the city the name of "Lop Buri." Therefore, it is the local belief that this city pillar was Rama's arrow that turned to stone and the still visible earth mounds were made by Hanuman's tail." It is later said that Rama's arrow created a widespread fire, which may have accounted for Lop Buri's abundance in white-clay body powder in cake form, or clay that was heated by Rama's arrow. The monkeys at the shrine are regarded as the descendants or servants of Hanuman. The front of the shrine has a small pool with a huge green rock in the middle. It is believed that if the water dries up, there will be a fire. The shrine houses images of the Chinese gods of Kuan U, Khao Tok, Pun Thao Kong, and Pun Thao Ma

7

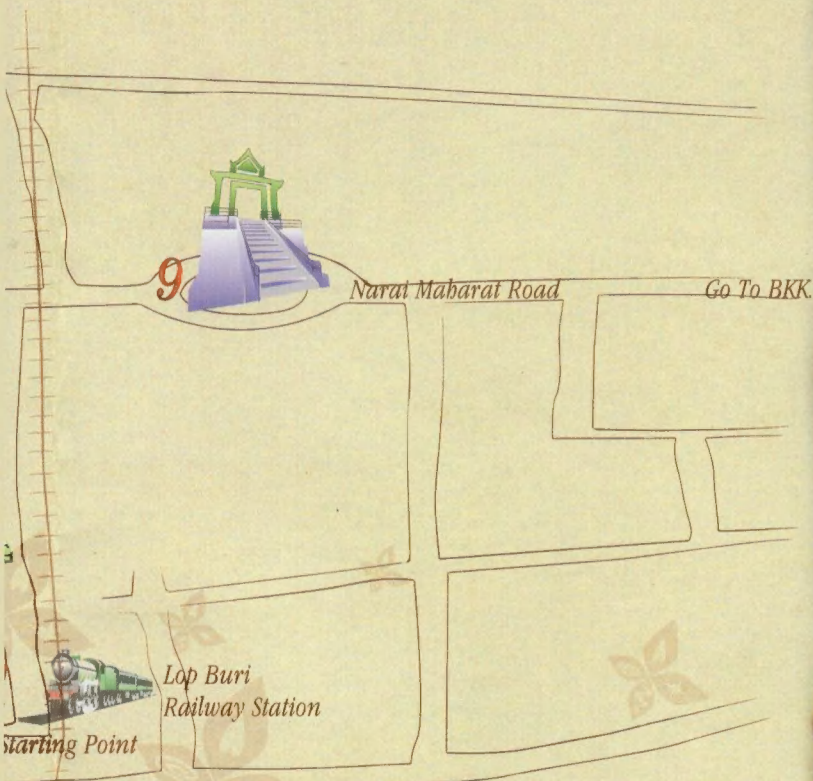
resic
a let
tin l
He v
have
At t
doo
cler
Phra

8

cent
stup
stup
ima
orig
ima
mac
Nag

9

of le
side
Nar
shri
suar
by e
a sa
lavin



Vichayen House or Royal Envoy Reception House

House was built in the reign of King Narai the Great as the residence for the first team of French envoys that came in 1685. Chevalier de Chaumont brought a letter from King Louis XIV to present to King Narai the Great. Later, a Greek named Constantin Phaulcon came to service in the royal court and was promoted to "Chao Phraya Vichayen." He was granted residence to the west of the royal envoy reception house. Most of the buildings have Renaissance-style architecture combined with Thai art of the time of King Narai the Great. At the center are a bell tower and a Christian church laid out in the European style. There are doors and windows in the Thai style. To the east is the two-storey residence of envoys and clergymen with front steps and a half-circle doorway. To the west is the residence of Chao Phraya Vichayen.



Phra Prang Sam Yot is a Buddhist building of the Mahayana sect in the art style of the Lop Buri period (18th Buddhist century). Built of laterite, the 3 tall stupas are lined with walkways linking them. The middle stupa is the main one. It used to house a Buddha image in the Nak Prok posture. The northern stupa houses the Phra Photisat Awalokitesuan image, while the southern stupa houses the image of Nang Pratyapa Paramita. The exterior of all is decorated with bas relief. The doorways originally had a gable but now only the column remains. The door frame is decorated with an image of a hermit sitting with his knees up. The upper part is decorated with jack wood leaves made of sandstone and carved in the shape of a doorkeeper, the god Narai and a 5-headed Naga (mythical serpent).



San Phra Kan or Phra Kan Shrine

is a temple in the Brahman religion. Dating from the 16th Buddhist century, it is built of laterite slabs laid on top of each other with a wide base. There are steps on each of the 4 sides. The whole stupa collapsed in the Ayutthaya period and was repaired in the time of King Narai the Great. In 1951, a plaster-covered brick foundation was built on top of the old one. The shrine now houses "Chao Pho Phra Kan," a sculpture in the shape of Phra Photisat Awalokitesuan in the Lop Buri art style with 4 hands. The old head had disappeared and was replaced by a head of a sandstone Buddha image of the Ayutthaya period. The shrine is a sacred place of Lop Buri. There are many monkeys living around it.

Suggested Walking Routes to Visit Lop Buri Historical Sites

(Stop 1) Wat Phra Si Rattana Maha That Pay homage to the holy relics of Lord Buddha at the main prang (tall stupa). Open 07.00-17.00 hrs. except Monday-Tuesday. Entry fee is 30 baht. From Wat Maha That, walk to the left along the temple boundary. On the right, you will see a two-storey teak building with a roof without gables. Visit the historical building where TAT Central Region Office: Region 7 is located for tourist information.

(Stop 2) Wat Kawisaram Ratchaworawihan Stop here to pay homage to the main Buddha image in the consecrated assembly hall from the Ayutthaya period. See colorful murals. From the temple entrance, walk to the left on Phet Raja Road for 30 meters until you see the entrance of Wat Choeng Tha at the end of the road.

(Stop 3) Wat Choeng Tha Visit Ho Sophon Sin Museum to see rare and valuable art objects. Go back along Phet Raja Road along the palace wall, turn left onto Ratchadamnoen Road to the palace gate.

(Stop 4) Narai Ratchaniwet Palace and Somdet Phra Narai National Museum Open 07.00-17.00 hrs. except Monday-Tuesday. Entry fee is 30 baht. From the palace gate, walk along the wall to the left and turn right onto France Road past the fresh market to Wat Sao Thong Thong.

(Stop 5) Wat Sao Thong Thong Pay homage to the sacred Buddha image Luang Pho To and see ancient Buddha images. Exit from the gate to the rear of the royal chapel and walk right on Phra Ram Road for 30 meters until you reach Luk Son Shrine.

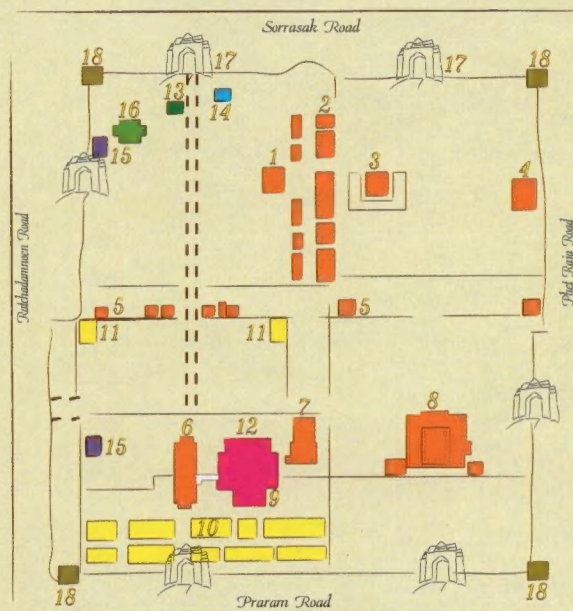
(Stop 6) Luk Son Shrine According to the epic Ramayana, Rama shot an arrow to where he wanted Hanuman to build Lop Buri. The arrow later turned to stone. Reverse your route and turn left onto Wichayen Road and walk for 30 meters to Vichayen House.

(Stop 7) Vichayen House This is where King Narai the Great received foreign envoys. See the grand architecture of the Renaissance. Open 07.00-17.00 hrs. except Monday-Tuesday. Entry fee is 30 baht. From the gate, walk to the left on Wichayen Road past Prang Khaek. You will see Phra Prang Sam Yot and Phra Kan Shrine.

(Stop 8) Phra Prang Sam Yot See this historical site which is the symbol of Lop Buri. Open 07.00-17.00 hrs. except Monday-Tuesday. Entry fee is 30 baht. Phra Kan Shrine is to your left. Walk across the railroad tracks for 30 meters.

(Stop 9) Phra Kan Shrine Pay homage to Chao Pho Phra Kan, the sacred object of the city, and see playful monkeys all around.

Map in The Palace



1. The water tank
2. The Twelve Halls of Treasure
3. The reception hall for foreign envoys
4. The Phra Chao Hao Hall
5. The elephant stables
6. The Chanthara Phisan Throne Hall
7. Dusitsawan Thanya Mahaprasada Throne Hall
8. Suthasawan Throne Hall
9. Phiman Mongkut Pavilion
10. Phra Pratiep Building
11. Thim Dap
12. Book-Souvenir Shop
13. Ticket Booth
14. Softdrink Shop
15. Toilet
16. Office
17. Entrance
18. Fortress

Phra Prang Sam Yot

